

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 15-24 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 23 and 24 are allowed.

In paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Blieske et al (US 7,368,655).

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Blieske et al does not disclose or render obvious the present invention.

The invention of Blieske et al relates to the field of transparent antireflection panels capable of trapping light (col. 1, line 12+). In particular, when the panel according to the invention of Blieske et al is placed above the surface (for example made of silicon) of a photoelectric cell, the panel increases the amount of light received by said cell (col. 1, lines 26-32).

Accordingly, the invention of Blieske et al is a technique for refracting light entered to a panel and guiding as much light as possible to the panel.

In contrast, the present invention relates to a diffusing technique for evenly emitting light entered from a light source, which is different in technical field from the invention of Blieske et al; and the operations advantages, which it performs and provides, are completely different.

Furthermore, a light diffusing sheet of the present invention is a sheet whose light emission side has fine recesses formed therein.

In contrast, the panel of Blieske et al is a panel configured so as to effectively capture incident light (that is, to guide incident light to the inside of a panel) by disposing patterns on a light entrance side, as indicated by the following disclosures.

An assembly comprising: a textured transparent panel and an photovoltaic cell or solar collector element configured to collect light, a distance between said panel and said element being generally at most 5 m, said panel being textured on at least one of its faces by a plurality of geometrical features in relief with respect to a general plane of said face, the textured face increasing light transmission of the panel and being placed on a side on which the light is received, a surface of said features each having at least two points such that there exists two mutually intersecting planes each containing one of said two points and fulfilling following two conditions (1)-(2): (1) the planes are both perpendicular to the general plane of the textured face of the panel; and (2) the planes each contain one of two straight lines perpendicular to said surface and passing through one of said two points.

See claim 1 of Blieske et al. And Blieske et al further state:

Thus, the invention also relates to an assembly comprising a textured transparent panel and an element capable of collecting or emitting light, the distance between said panel and said element being generally at most 5 m, said panel being textured on at least one of its faces by a plurality of geometrical features in relief with respect to the general plane of said face, the textured face being placed on the side on which the light is received (that is to say on the same side as the light source).

See col. 3, lines 51- 59 of Blieske et al.

The differences between the light diffusing sheet of the present invention and the panel of Blieske et al are further clarified by the descriptions in Blieske et al shown below (especially the underlined portions):

The panel according to the invention may also serve as an optical diffuser with a high light transmission. In this case, the panel

according to the invention is placed in front of a light source and its function is to make the luminance uniform. The distance between the light source and the panel according to the invention may, for example, range from 0 to 10 mm, or even from 0 to 5 mm. For this application, it is possible to apply a light-diffusing layer to that face of the panel on the opposite side from the light source. This diffusing layer may, for example, be made of alumina. In this application, the texturing allows the light transmission of the diffuser to be improved, while maintaining, or even improving, its diffusion properties. In particular, the panel according to the invention may be used as a light diffuser when it is placed between the light source for an LCD (liquid crystal display) screen and said LCD screen. The panel according to the invention may also serve as a light diffuser when it is placed in front of a flat plasma discharge lamp. The distance between the panel and the plasma lamp is generally from 0 to 5 mm.

See col. 6, line 62 to col. 7, line 14 of Blieske et al

The above disclosure of Blieske et al has a description to the effect that the panel of Blieske et al may also serve as a light diffuser, but in that case, a diffusing layer is placed on the light emission side. That is, the panel of Blieske et al can merely capture incident light effectively. In order to play a role, as a light diffuser, of emitting light evenly without unevenness, it is necessary to separately dispose a light diffusing layer on the light emission side of the panel.

Accordingly, the light diffusing sheet of the present invention is quite different from, and patentable over, the panel of Blieske et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection based on Blieske et al are respectfully requested.

In paragraph No. 4 of the Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ko et al (US 7,320,538).

In paragraph No. 6 of the Action, claims 2, 7, 8, 9, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ko et al in view of Takeuchi et al (US 5,944,405).

In paragraph No. 7 of the Action, claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ko et al.

Applicants submit that the above three rejections should be withdrawn because Ko et al is not prior art with respect to the present claims.

Ko et al qualifies as prior art under §102(e) by virtue of its filing date of December 30, 2004. This date is later in time than Applicants' priority date of February 26, 2004.

To remove Ko et al as prior art under § 102(e) and to perfect their claim to priority, Applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of their priority document. Section 112 support for the present claims in the priority document is as shown in the following chart:

Present Claim	Support in Priority Document
1	Claim 1 and Figures 1-8
2	Claim 2
5	Figures 1-8
6	Claim 5
8	Claim 6
9	Claim 7 and [0014]
15	Claim 1; Figures 1-8; and claims 5-7
16	Claim 3
17	Claim 4

In view of the above, Ko et al is not § 102(e) prior art with respect to at least present claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 15-17.

Turning to claims 7, 18, 20, and 21, Applicant's first address claims 18 and 20.

As to the functional layer recited in claims 18 and 20, the Examiner contends that Ko et al discloses a function layer **28**.

However, **28** in Figures 5A and 5B of Ko et al is an adhesive **28**, which may include a pressure sensitive adhesive or an UV light curable adhesive (col. 6, lines 54-60).

Ko et al does not teach or suggest a functional layer having light-transmitting properties which comprises a UV-absorbing layer and/or an antistatic layer, as recited in present claims 18 and 20.

Turning to claims 7 and 21, Applicants' review of their priority document for support of these two claims is continuing, and Applicants will supplement their response as appropriate.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on Ko et al and Takeuchi et al are respectfully requested.

In paragraph No. 8 of the Action, claims 19 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants submit that claims 19 and 22 are patentable in their present form because claims 15 and 17 are patentable over the references, as discussed above.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Hui C. Wauters
Hui C. Wauters
Registration No. 57,426

SUGHRIE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRIE/655550

65565

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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